

SON-2137

PATENT APPLICATION

#7
3-22-04
JC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAR 17 2004

In re Patent Application of:

Takitaka YOSHIHIRO et al

Application No.: 09/864,336

Confirmation No. 2332

Filed: May 25, 2001

Group Art: 2615

For: MAGNETIC TAPE TRACKING CONTROL
APPARATUS AND METHOD, MAGNETIC
TAPE FORMAT, RECORDING MEDIUM AND
PROGRAM

Examiner: Sharon Latimer

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAR 18 2004

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicant, through its representatives and attorneys, hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner the four (4) documents identified on the accompanying Form PTO-1449. These documents emanated from the European search report dated February 20, 2004. Copies are provided.

This submission is timely in that it is made prior to the initial Action on the merits of this application. It is also timely in that it is provided within three months from the subject communication in a corresponding foreign application, as noted, and thus certification is appropriate.

For the convenience of the examiner, a copy of the European search report itself, and its accompanying Annex showing patent family members for the citations, are provided.

This information disclosure statement is filed at this time to place these documents with the Examiner for the initial examination on the merits.

Please take these documents into account in the initial examination along with the background information in the application as filed. An early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



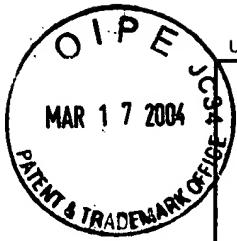
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	09/864,336
				Filing Date	May 25, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Toshitaka Yoshihiro
				Art Unit	2615
				Examiner Name	Sharon Latimer
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	SON-2137

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
A					
A					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
BA	EP0 0 618 567 A2	10/05/94	Matsushita Electric Ind. Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BB	EP 0 701 380 A2	03/13/96	Sony Corp.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BC	WO 98/34228	08/06/98	Koninkl Philips Electronics NV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²
		Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
CA	European Search Report and Annex dated 02/20/04				
CB	Onishi K, et al. "Trick Play Method for Digital VCRs" Electronics & Communications in Japan, Part III – Fundamental Electronic Science, Scripta Technical, New York, US, Vol. 80, No. 12, 12/01/97, pgs. 65-80				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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